

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 714

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mary Jean Lucas upon being selected as the guest of honor at the 24th Annual Wilson County Library Board Roast.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Mary Jean "MJ" Lucas, who has been selected as the guest of honor at the 24th Annual Wilson County Library Board Roast; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jean "MJ" Lucas has established herself as an indispensable asset to the Lebanon-Wilson County community; the voice of morning radio at WANT 98.9 FM Real Country in Lebanon, MJ dreamed of being a radio disc jockey (DJ) from childhood; and

WHEREAS, born on New Year's Day in Ocala, Florida, Mary Jean Lucas graduated from Forest High School; thereafter, she attended Central Florida State Community College while working for Ocala Saddle Shop, a job she began at the age of fourteen, eventually working her way up to store manager; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lucas was presented with her first opportunity in radio broadcasting during a call to the local radio station, WMOP, about purchasing advertising for the saddle shop; she mentioned her life-long interest in radio and was informed that the station had an opening for a part-time position as a weekend DJ; and

WHEREAS, she landed the job at WMOP, eventually working her way up from weekends to the morning show; she worked for WMOP for ten years before deciding it was time for a change; and

WHEREAS, sharing a love of country music with her mother, the pair discussed visiting Nashville on several occasions; after her mother passed away from cancer in 1996, MJ decided to fulfill their desires of visiting Music City, but instead of merely making a trip, she packed her car and moved to Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lucas worked for Warner Bros. TV in Nashville before landing a job in radio; while surfing the radio one day, she came across Lebanon's WANT 98.9 FM Real Country station, which had similar content to her radio program in Ocala; she called the station's owner, Susie James, to request a tour of their facilities, and landed a part-time job doing live broadcasts; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jean eventually moved from her part-time position to the morning show, where she sparkles as Lebanon's on-air personality; she has spent the past eighteen years cultivating a relationship with the people of Lebanon and Wilson County who, along with her colleagues at the station, have become a second family to Ms. Lucas; and

WHEREAS, one of Ms. Lucas's favorite aspects of being a radio broadcaster is the opportunity to interview people; among her most memorable interviewees are Dr. Phil McGraw, Gretchen Wilson, Gene Watson, Trace Atkins, Ray Stevens, Josh Turner, Jay Bush and Duke of Bush's Baked Beans, Henry Winkler, and several Tennessee Titans players; and

WHEREAS, an active participant in the Wilson County community, Ms. Lucas has worked with numerous charities and organizations, including Brooks House, Music at the Mills, Relay for Life, Sherry's Run, and Wilson County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), among others; she also serves on the board of New Leash On Life, the Beautification Commission, and March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jean Lucas is an active and devout member of Faith Lutheran Church in Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, in her spare time, Ms. Lucas enjoys hiking and spending time with her two canine companions, Brewster and Truffles; she returns to her hometown in Florida twice a year to visit family and spend time at the beach; although she has made Tennessee her beloved

home, she has yet to convert to become a Tennessee Vols fan and still proclaims her allegiance to the Florida Gators; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mary Jean Lucas for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Mary Jean "MJ" Lucas upon being selected as the guest of honor at the 24th Annual Wilson County Library Board Roast, commend her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.